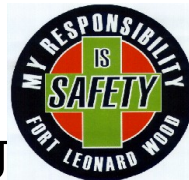




Safety Alert 05-18

htning Safety During Training



18 August 2005

Lightning can be a deadly enemy for personnel conducting outdoor training. To avoid death or serious injury from lightning strikes, units should follow the guidance in FLW Reg 210-14, paragraph 3-22 and FLW Pam 385-1, paragraph 7 and Annex A. Some keys rules for lightning safety are:

1. **Plan** in advance your evacuation and safety measures. When you first see lightning or hear thunder, or receive notification activate your emergency plan. Now is the time to go to a designated building, area, or a vehicle. Lightning often precedes rain, so don't wait for the rain to begin before suspending activities.

2. **Promptly seek shelter** in a substantial building, preferably one with lightning protection. The best options, in the following order, are:

A building with lightning protection.

A building that is grounded.

A building even with no lightning protection or grounded.

Disperse in open area.

Annex A to FLW Pam 385-1 lists the safest facilities on each range/training area.

3. If a building is not available, the next best option is a fully enclosed metal vehicle such as a car, truck or a van with the windows completely shut.

4. If no building or appropriate vehicle is available, AVOID: water; high ground; open spaces; hill tops; isolated trees; poles; all metal objects, including electric wires, fences, machinery, motors, power tools, etc.

5. Place weapons at least 50 feet away from personnel. Stay away from ammunition storage areas.

6. Properly ground all switchboards and generators.

7. Evacuate personnel from areas containing power lines, high-tension cables, and television communications antennas.

8. Personnel riding in any open vehicles should dismount and move approximately 100 meters away from the vehicles.

7. Avoid using phones and radios, except in extreme emergencies. Ensure that the antennas on radios are collapsed.

9. If you are in an exposed area and feel static electricity (e.g. your hair stands on end) assume a squatting position with your hands on your knees. DO NOT LIE FLAT ON THE GROUND OR PLACE YOUR HANDS ON THE GROUND.

10. Personnel in bleachers or in a group should disperse quickly. If in water, they should emerge immediately upon the approach of a thunderstorm.

11. Suspend all training until the storm has ended. Also, keep all radio and telephone communications to a minimum.

MANSCEN SAFETY OFFICE